

AMENDMENTS

In the Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) A bone spreader for spreading bones apart, comprising a parallel guide system with a guide bar, two tubular pin holders which are connected to one another by the parallel guide system and are configured to receive two pins that are axially introduced into the pin holders and configured to be connected to the bone parts that are to be spread apart, and at least one pin holder having a locking device for a pin located therein thereon,

wherein the pins have at least one transverse groove formed therein, the locking device comprises a locking finger which is guided between a locking position and a release position in a transverse movement tangentially with respect to the pin holder, the locking finger is configured to engage in the groove in the locking position, and the tubular pin holders are arranged in planes which are perpendicular to the guide bar.

2. (Previously Presented) The bone spreader as claimed in claim 1, wherein the locking finger is in the form of a hook which is mounted at an open end of the pin holder closer to the parallel guide system and is pivotable about an axis extending approximately parallel to said pin holder.

3. (New) A method for spreading bone parts apart comprising:
introducing a first pin into a first bone part and a second pin into a second bone part;
introducing a free end of the first pin into a first pin holder of a parallel guide system;
securing the free end of the first pin to the first pin holder with a first locking device;
moving the first and second pins relative to one another by operation of the parallel guide system to spread apart the first and second bone parts.

4. (New) The method of claim 3, further comprising:
introducing a free end of the second pin into a second pin holder of the parallel guide system; and

securing the free end of the second pin to the second pin holder with a second locking device.

5. (New) The method of claim 3, wherein the first pin includes at least one transverse groove.

6. (New) The method of claim 3, wherein the first locking device is a locking finger.